AvnFPS Version 1.0
Step-By-Step Instructions
Last Updated September 19, 2003
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Note: To go to the links listed above:

        1.   Move the cursor over the link

        2.   Press the right mouse button

        3.   Select "Open Weblink in Browser"

News You Can Use

1. With the AvnFPS Program the date and time in the WMO Header will already be preselected for you. The date and time will be presented in a 6 digit number; the first 2 numbers being the current date, and the last 4 numbers being the cardinal hour prior to valid forecast hour, required to meet international standards for scheduled TAFs. **Do Not Change This Number.**

Example: 151700, 15 = 15th day of month and 1700 = 1 hour prior to 1800 UTC TAF issuance.

Reference: NWS Directives - 10-813
                                  Page C-1
                                  Section 1.1
                                  Under **Bulletin Headings**

2. Anywhere you move your cursor on the colored spots on the AvnFPS...it will give you information.

Examples:

a) When you move the cursor over (wx, vsby, wnd and cig)

if color is green-   OK
if color is yellow-   1 category
if color i s orange-   2 categories
etc...

b) When you move the cursor over the **circles** to the left of (wx, vsby, wnd and cig)

if color is green-   means OK, but doesn't show you anything
if color is yellow-   TMP/PROB group did not occur
if color is orange-   TAF contains errors
if color is red-   data not getting processed
etc...

✔ **Play around with this feature...the AvnFPS gives all sorts of information just by moving the cursor to a spot.**

Quick and Easy Troubleshooting Guidelines to the AvnFPS

☹ **A few things to look for if products are not being transmitted:**

    1. If you get an error message about the header...click the "blank" button (right next to the word TAF...above editor window). This will select current products for the sites. Select Duluth and hit OK, then try to send products again.

    2. **If products are not being transmitted**...check the "Last Pending Check" button on top right of main AvnFPS window. This button **SHOULD** be green...if it is RED, the products will NOT go out. Click the button to restart the server...the button should turn back to green, and products should be able to be transmitted.

☹ **Problems with Work TAFs?**

TRY THESE STEPS BEFORE QCing & SENDING
    4. Choose current product - by clicking the "blank" button next to the word TAF...choose "Duluth" and hit "OK".
    5. Delete first two lines before Duluth TAF...otherwise will flag when QC.

☹ **Can't figure out why program doesn't like something when QCed??**
    If program flags an error...put your cursor over the colored part for explanation!!

How To's of the AvnFPS
(Version 1.0)

How To **Start AvnFPS:**

1. You can open AvnFPS program on the text workstation and also on Linux.

    ✈ **For Text:** Right click on Workstation window and click "Start AvnFPS", then click on "Watch".

    ✈ **For Linux:** Under "blue globe" menu on left hand side...click on "Start AvnFPS", then click on "Watch".

        ✍ **NOTE:** Give the program a minute to start up......it is quickest on Linux and slowest with the text workstation using HP's.

2. A window will pop up...Select **your name** and click on "OK". This will help in the verification program and will enable you to personalize your own account. (i.e.-fonts, colors...etc)

How To **Set Up Your Own Account:**

① Go to "Options" on the main AvnFPS window and click "Setup".
② Under "Setup" you can change many options including:
    confirm close...
    fonts...
    colors...
    usemetar...
    autosave...
    autoprint...
    and much more...

③ **Things to know about choosing fonts...**

✔There are *six* different fonts to change.

✂ <u>font</u>: "main GUI" and "Setup" fonts
✂ <u>Text.font</u>: text font when viewing current TAF...(i.e.-click KDLH)
✂ <u>Listbox.font</u>: pop up window to change your fonts
✂ <u>Entry font</u>: white box entry areas in AvnFPS
✂ <u>Forecast Editor*Text.font</u>: fonts while editing TAFs/TWBs
✂ <u>Balloon.Font</u>: text that pop up when moving your cursor around

③ Once any changes are made...hit "Save" then hit "Close" for the Setup window
to close...then under "File" (in main GUI) hit "Restart" for changes to take affect.

How To **Monitor:**

✔ **TAFs will be checked every 30 seconds. _Status_ button should be green, if
Status button turns red...there may be a problem. Can also click "File" and
"Check Now" to check TAFs immediately.**

① Colors are similar to Aviation Workstation. (i.e.-Yellow=1 category, orange
=2...etc). To learn more about the colors, go to "**File**" and click on "**View Rules**".

② If there is a problem or a potential problem...click on the 4 letter ID on the left
hand side to view the TAF. The problem/error in the TAF and the corresponding
observation will **both** be highlighted orange.

③ There are colored circles on the left hand side of the GUI between the 4 letter
IDs and the METAR times. These circles 'change color' and 'blink' to indicate a
problem or a potential problem.

&❧**Color References: Green** =everything looks good
Yellow=TEMPO/PROB group did not occur
Orange=TAF contains errors
Red=data not getting processed...BAD!!

How To **Generate Regularly Scheduled TAFs:**

① Click on TAFGen at the top left.

☞ *Here are your choices...*

    A). Write/Edit from scratch (no TAFs will be loaded automatically)...**YOU WILL NOT LIKELY TAKE THIS APPROACH.**

OR...

    B). Click on LOAD.

    ✖ A box will pop up with some choices.
    ✈ Duluth (Under Products) and all appropriate corresponding TAFs (under sites) will be highlighted purple.

✈ <u>**Initialize from?...choices...**</u>
    1. Latest– (default)
    2. Previous–loads in previous TAF
    3. Template–date and time coded for you...with the rest of the TAF blank
    4. Merge–loads in previous TAF along with replacing the first line of TAF with current observation, plus any template information that needs to be added at the end of a TAF.

✈ <u>**Forecast Type?...choices...**</u>
    1. Regular (default)
    2. Delayed
    3. Correction
    4. Amendment

✔ Once all these parameters are set...click OK

    ▲ <u>**Optional:**</u> Click on "text" at the top to see the latest TAFs, METARs and MAV output...OR...click on "graph" to see a graphical display of all 3.

✎ <u>**Edit/Create your TAF**</u>

⊛ **CHOOSE NAME**: choose your name if it does not already appear at the top right side of GUI. (Should appear if you are logged in as yourself) ‼ **At this point...if you are not logged in as yourself, log out of the AvnFPS and log back in as YOURSELF.**

√ **Click on QC:** This is equivalent to "TAF Check". but MUST be done right before you *send* because it does some required formatting.

> **?? If program flags an error**...put your cursor over the colored part for explanation!!

✉ **Click on SEND:** when prompted, verify time...then hit "OK".

✍ **NOTE:** The prompt will change from 'purple' to 'white' after TAFs are sent
> ☹ **A few things to look for if TAFs are not transmitted:**
>> **1. If you get an error message about the header**...click the "blank" button (right next to the word TAF...above editor window). This will select **current products** for the sites. Select Duluth and hit OK, then try to *send* TAFs again.
>>
>> 2. **If TAFs are not being transmitted**...check the "Last Pending Check" button on top right of main AvnFPS window. This button **SHOULD** be green...if it is RED, the TAFs will NOT go out. Click the button to restart the server...the button should turn back to green, and TAFs should be able to be transmitted.

☜ **Printing the TAFs:** Go to "options" select AUTOPRINT.
> ✍**NOTE**: If you want EVERYTHING to print...in the main AvnFPS window...go to "Options" and "Setup" and check "print".

How To **Generate Work TAFs:**

❶ Create/edit the TAFs.
❷ QC the TAFs by hitting the "QC" button
❸ Save the TAFs by hitting the "WORK" button.
> ✍ **NOTE: This will save the TAFs under MSPWRKTAF...resulting in the TAFs being saved in the AvnFPS program and also in AWIPS.**

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How To **Open Work TAFs:**

☹ **If the previous shift did not use AvnFPS to produce the Work TAFs...you will have to copy and paste the Work TAFs into the program!!**

☺ If they did use AvnFPS...follow these steps...
>   1. Click on TAFGen
>   2. Go to "File" and hit "Restore" (AKA Open)
>   3. In the files...look for MSPWRKTAF...then click "Open"
>   ****YOU MUST DO STEPS 4 & 5 BEFORE QCing & SENDING****
>   4. Delete first 2 lines before KDLH TAF...otherwise will flag when QCed.
>   5. Choose current product - by clicking the "blank" button next to the word TAF...choose "Duluth" and hit "OK".
>   6. Edit TAFs as needed...QC...and SEND.

How To **Generate a TAF Amendment (AMD):**

☛ *Here are your choices...*

① Take the steps for generating a regularly scheduled TAF, but choose AMENDMENT for the FORECAST TYPE. This option can be used for a *single site* or *multiple sites*. To edit multiple sites...hold down the "Ctrl" key on the keyboard, and highlight the sites to be amended.

OR...

② Take the shortcut and click on AMD on the right side of the main AvnFPS window. A separate window will open up to edit the TAF.

> ✍ **NOTE:** This will put in your latest TAF with the most current observation. Now you may create/edit your TAF...QC format...and SEND.
> ✍ Also Note: To turn off the auto update for the most current observation...go to "Options" and click "UseMetar".

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How To **Generate a TAF Correction (COR):**

☛ *Here are your choices...*

① Take the steps for generating a regularly scheduled TAF, but choose CORRECTION for the FORECAST TYPE. This option can be used for a *single site* or *multiple sites*. To edit multiple sites...hold down the "Ctrl" key on the keyboard, and highlight the sites to be amended.

OR...

② Take the shortcut and click on COR on the right side of the main AvnFPS window. A separate window will open up to edit the TAF. This will put in your last TAF exactly how you had it. Now you may create/edit your TAF...QC format...and SEND.

✍ **NOTE:** This will create a CORRECTION for the site you have depressed and is highlighted yellow on the main AvnFPS window.

How To **Generate TWEBs:**

✍ **NOTE: TAFs will not be displayed in bottom window...however, this option will be coming in Version 2.0 this Fall. You may click "Text" under TWBGen to see the TAFs and TWBs displayed together.**

① Click on TWBGen at the top.

☛ *Here are your choices...*

A). Write/Edit from scratch (no TWBs will be loaded automatically)...**YOU WILL NOT LIKELY TAKE THIS APPROACH.**

OR...

B). Click on LOAD.

✖ A box will pop up with some choices.
✈ Duluth (Under Products) and all appropriate corresponding TWBs (under sites) will be highlighted purple.

✈ **Initialize from?...choices...**
    1. Latest– (default)
    2. Previous–loads in previous TWBs
    3. Template–date and time coded for you...with the rest of the TWB blank
    4. Merge–loads in previous TWB, plus any template information that needs to be added at the end of a TWB.

✈ **Forecast Type?...choices...**
    1. Regular (default)
    2. Delayed (grayed out)
    3. Correction
    4. Amendment

✔ Once all these parameters are set...click OK

    ▲ **Optional:** Click on "Text" at the top to see the latest TAFs and TWBs...OR...click on "graph" to see a graphical display of TAFs, METARS and MAV output.

✎ **Edit/Create your TWB**

� **CHOOSE NAME**: choose your name if it does not already appear at the top right side of GUI. (Should appear if you are logged in as yourself) ‼ **At this point...if you are not logged in as yourself, log out of the AvnFPS and log back in as YOURSELF.**

√ **Click on QC:** This is "NEW", but <u>MUST</u> be done right before you *send* because it does some required formatting.
    ?? If program flags an error...put your cursor over the colored part for explanation!!

✉ **Click on SEND:** when prompted, verify time...then hit OK.

✍ **NOTE:** The prompt will change from 'purple' to 'white' after TWBs are sent

☹ **Things to look for if TWBs are not transmitted:**

     1. **If TWBs are not being transmitted**...check the "Last Pending Check" button on top right of main AvnFPS window. This button **SHOULD** be green...if it is RED, the TWBs will NOT go out. Click the button to restart the server...the button should turn back to green, and TWBs should be able to be transmitted.

☞ **Printing the TWBs:** Go to "options" select AUTOPRINT.
    ✍**NOTE**: If you want <u>EVERYTHING</u> to print...in the main AvnFPS window...go to "Options" and "Setup" and check "print".

How To **Generate Work TWEBs:**

❶ Create/edit the TWBs.
❷ QC the TWBs by hitting the "QC" button
❸ Save the TWBs by hitting the "WORK" button.

✍ **NOTE: This will save the TWBs under MSPWRKTWB, resulting in the TWBs being saved in the AvnFPS program and also in AWIPS.**

How To **Open Work TWEBs:**

☹ **If the previous shift did not use AvnFPS to produce the Work TWBs...you will have to copy and paste the Work TWBs into the program!!**

☺ If they did use AvnFPS...follow these steps...
    1. Click on TWBGen
    2. Go to "File" and hit "Restore" (AKA Open)
    3. In the files...look for MSPWRKTWB...then click "Open"
    YOU <u>MUST</u> DO STEPS 4 & 5 BEFORE QCing & SENDING
    4. Delete the first 2 lines before 246...otherwise will flag when QCed.
    5. Choose current product - by clicking the "blank" button next to the word TAF...choose "Duluth" and hit "OK".

6. Edit TWBs as needed...QC...and SEND.

How To **Backup MPX and FGF:**

☛ *Here are your choices...*

① Click on TAFGen at the top...then click on LOAD.

② **Select/highlight** the location to be backed up...either **Minneapolis** or **Grand Forks**. Then under SITES on the right side...make sure the individual TAF locations are highlighted.

OR...

① Take the easy route...and hit the "Backup" button on the main AvnFPS window. Then select Duluth, Grand Forks or Minneapolis...and hit "OK".